

# Keeping Children Closer to Home

## Ashley Kintzer, MSCJ - Planner for Regionalization

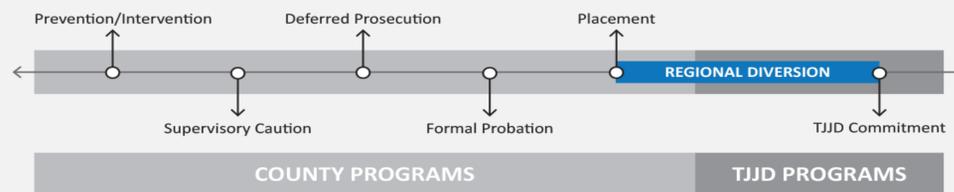
### Introduction

In 2015, the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature instructed TJJ to develop a regionalization plan, in consultation with local juvenile probation departments, to keep youth closer to home instead of commitment to TJJ. Since June 2016, the regionalization division has been accepting diversion applications from county juvenile probation departments for the use of funds from Grant R - Regional Diversion Alternatives (RDA) Program. The objective of this program is to divert youth from TJJ commitment while maintaining community safety. The regionalization team staffs each application and decides whether a youth is approved. The data in this poster represents some of the demographics of the youth who's placements were and are funded using the Grant R - RDA Program.

### Application Review Process

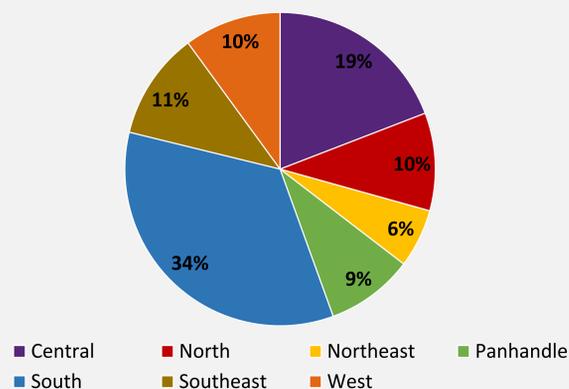
- Each completed TJJ Regional Diversion Application, TJJ-REG-007, that TJJ receives is reviewed and staffed within five workdays after it is received.
- Factors considered: target population, interventions commensurate with department resources, youth's potential to benefit from additional intervention-motivation, strengths, etc., and risk, needs, and responsivity- treatment matching.
- Once application is signed, a copy is sent to the chief.

### Who are the youth being diverted?

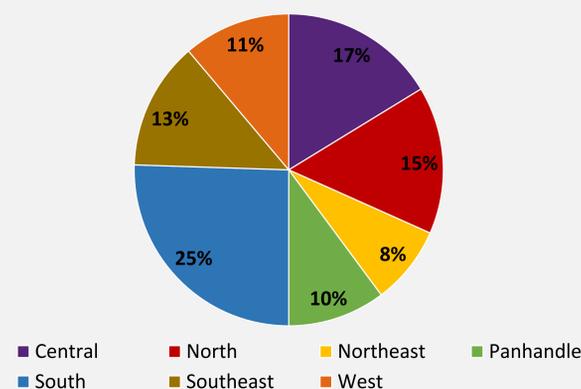


Fiscal Year	2016	2017
Average Age	15	15
Average IQ	87	89
Sex	Male – 87.5% / Female - 12.5%	Male – 87% / Female – 13%
Race	Asian – 1.25% Black – 13.75% Hispanic – 63.75% White – 17.25%	Asian – 0% Black – 13.56% Hispanic – 54.66% White – 31.78%
Out of Home Placements	1.3	1

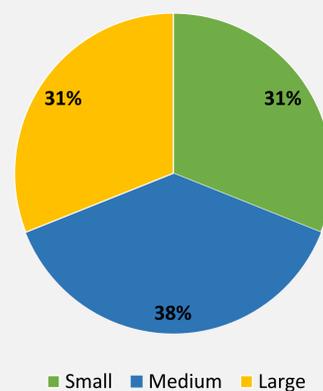
What Regions Are Sending Applications?  
Fiscal Year 2017



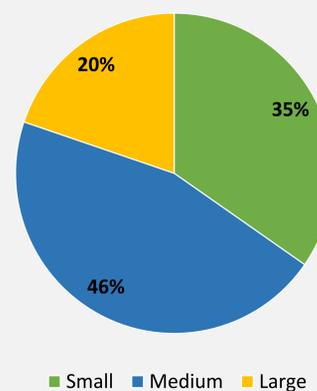
Placed Youth Per Region  
Fiscal Year 2017



What Size Are The Departments Sending Applications in Fiscal Year 2017?



Placed Youth Per Department Size  
Fiscal Year 2017



### Successful Youth Discharge Inside vs. Outside Their Home Region

	Outside Region		Inside Region	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Successful Discharge	27	59%	21	84%
Unsuccessful Discharge	19	41%	4	16%

### Future Directions

- Development and Expansion of Evidence-Based Programming Across State
- Include more robust aftercare plans for diverted youth being discharged from placement
- Uniform, Validated Risk and Needs Assessment Statewide

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